

Styles: Brow Battle!

Express' Styles crew reviews three non-wax ways to fight your facial fur.

TWEEZING: PLUCK, THAT HURTS

» **WHAT IT IS:** Although it's often abused by misguided, overzealous amateur eyebrow artists, this technique can produce lovely results when the person holding the metal tool knows what she's doing. The painstaking process also gives the tweeze-master more control over shape than do other methods.

» **HOW IT FEELS:** The discomfort level is much lower than one would suspect after tweezing at home — especially if brow specialist **Azi Niroo**, who rapidly repositions the skin to minimize pain, is doing the plucking. One thing she's learned: The right side hurts more than the left. Always. Though your eyes may water, you won't actually cry.

» **RESULTS:** From shapeless bar to contoured arc in 20 minutes ain't bad. The accuracy of tweezers lets Niroo create a more pronounced peak quite unlike waxing's generic curve. Afterward, there was no lingering pain, and none of our tester's hairs dared show their stubbly heads again for three weeks.

» \$30, [Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa](#), 5225 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-362-9890



SUGARING: SWEET, SWEET AGONY

» **WHAT IT IS:** The pharaohs of ancient **Egypt** employed sugaring, which is similar to waxing but kinder to the skin. The sticky, goopy, sugar-and-water mixture clings only to hair, unlike wax, which can painfully adhere to skin. And since the compound is water-soluble, cleanup is considerably easier.

» **HOW IT FEELS:** Like waxing, only slower. The goo is applied in the direction of hair growth, then rubbed off, taking the hair with it.

» **RESULTS:** Our sensitive-skinned tester used to conceal herself indoors after waxing to give redness time to die down. She saw some irritation immediately post-sugaring, but it only lasted about half an hour. Moreover, her skin never stung — not even when sweat dripped over the just-mowed area. Sugaring can remove hair as short as one-eighth of an inch, so it's a good fit for those who don't want to wait weeks between treatments.

» \$20, [PR @Partners](#), 5300 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-966-6771



THREADING: CAT'S CRADLE OF PAIN

» **WHAT IT IS:** Popular in the **Near and Middle East**, threading involves twisting cotton thread around rows of hair, then ripping them out. Though it can be used on brows alone, we had our chin and upper lip denuded, as well.

» **HOW IT FEELS:** Like a series of low-grade electric shocks. Threader **Hanife Kartal** puts one end of the thread in her mouth (that bit never touches your skin) and twists the rest into a dizzyingly complex spider-web. She catches hair in the web, then — zzzzt! Strays are dispatched via tweezers at the end of the 15-minute procedure. Eyes watered, but our tester was assured that this was normal and she wasn't a big fat wimp. The chin and lip threading hurt a lot less.

» **RESULTS:** The pain clocked in slightly higher than waxing, but our subject — who gets breakouts from looking at a tub of wax — emerged with no irritation, no redness and no post-procedure zits. Her brows stayed neat and tidy for nearly a month, and she plans to return for another round.

» \$20 for brows alone, \$40 for full face, [Okyo Salon](#), 2903 M St. NW; 202-342-2675

